

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ZAGREB 00295 190854Z

21

ACTION OPR-02

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R 161635Z APR 76
FM AMCONSUL ZAGREB
TO RUEHCSECSTATE WASHDC 3689
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

UNCLAS ZAGREB 295

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: BRAILLE WATCHES

REF: STATE 81209

1. AT AN INFORMAL MEETING ON APRIL 16, WITH THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF THE CROATIAN ASSOCIATION OF THE BLIND, THE CONSUL GENERAL DELIVERED THE GIFT OF TWO BRAILLE WATCHES ON BEHALF OF MR. BEN LIPSHY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, ZALE CORPORATION, DALLAS, TEXAS (REF). THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION, IMBRO KOVACEVIC, EXPRESSED HIS DEEP APPRECIATION AND SAID THE WATCHES WOULD BE USED AS A PRIZE IN THE FORTH-COMING COMPETITION FOR SPEED TYPING TO BE HELD THIS JUNE. THE ASSOCIATION, WHICH HAS A MEMBERSHIP OF 4,300 BLIND PEOPLE, WILL CELEBRATE ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY IN JUNE.

2. KOVACEVIC REQUESTED THE CONSULATE'S ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING INFORMATION (TECHNICAL INFORMATION AND PRICE) ABOUT EQUIPMENT CALLED OPTAKON WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO TRANSCRIBE BLACK AND WHITE TYPESET INTO BRAILLE SCRIPT. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE EQUIPMENT IS MANUFACTURED IN THE U.S.

3. KOVACEVIC ALSO ASKED US TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE IS A PROGRAM UNDER WHICH A YUGOSLAV BLIND PERSON MIGHT RECEIVE A GRANT TO ENABLE HIM TO TRAVEL TO THE U.S. TO STUDY ENGLISH AND TO RETURN TO YUGOSLAVIA TO TEACH ENGLISH TO THE BLIND.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING UNCLASSIFIED

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THE DESIRED INFORMATION. KAISER

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